## Footnotes and Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): "The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology."

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): "The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety."

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): "The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants."

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): "The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants."

Treatment Technique (TT): "A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water."

Action Level (AL): "The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow."

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

AL = Action Level
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
NA = Not Applicable
ND = Not detected at testing limit
NR = Not regulated
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ppb = Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.)
ppm = Parts per million or milligrams per liter (one part per million is equivalent to one penny in 10 thousand dollars.)
TT = Treatment Technique

## Regulated Contaminants Sample Date 2003

**Microbiological Monitoring Results:** Total coliform bacteria-highest percentage of positive samples collected in one month

| **Parameter** (present or absent in sample) | MCL | MCLG | Detected Level | Violation No/Yes | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Total Coliform Bacteria*** (entire distribution system) | presence of coliform bacteria in 5.0% of monthly samples | 0 | 2.1% | No | Naturally occurring |

***Turbidity:*** Highest single turbidity measurement, and lowest monthly percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU

| Water Treatment Plants | Parameter/Units | MCL | Detected Level | Violation No/Yes | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hemphill & Chattahoochee: (combined distribution system) | Turbidity (NTU) | TT = 1 NTU | 0.7 NTU | No | Soil runoff and erosion |
| | Turbidity (% of samples) | TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU | 99% | No | |
| Atlanta-Fulton County | Turbidity (NTU) | TT = 1 NTU | 0.05 | No | |
| | Turbidity (% of samples) | TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU | 100% | No | |

***Inorganic Contaminants***

| Water Treatment Plants | Parameter/Units | MCL | MCLG | Detected Level | Range of Detections | Violation No/Yes | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hemphill & Chattahoochee: (combined distribution system) | Fluoride/ppm | 4 | 4 | 0.96 | 0.91-1.1 | No | Water additive |
| | Nitrate as Nitrogen/ppm | 10 | 10 | 0.55 | 0.54-0.56 | No | Fertilizer runoff |
| Atlanta-Fulton County | Fluoride/ppm | 4 | 4 | 0.99 | 0.97-1.0 | No | Water additive |
| | Nitrate as Nitrogen/ppm | 10 | 10 | 0.42 | N/A | No | Fertilizer runoff |

*Entire Distribution System*

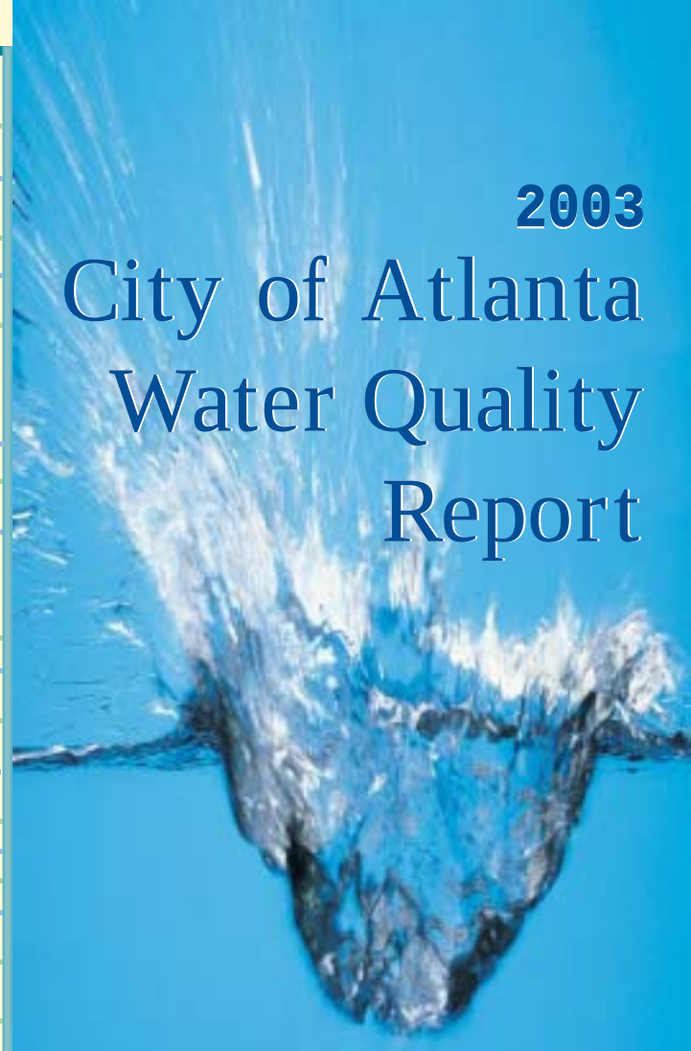
| Parameter/Unit | | MCL | MCLG | Detected Level | Range of Detections | Violation No/Yes | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copper/ppm | | AL=1.3 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 53 samples, no sites were found above the AL | No | Household plumbing |
| Lead/ppb | | AL=15 | 0 | 4.1 | 53 samples, 1 site was found above the AL | No | Household plumbing |
| Chlorine/ppm | | 4 (MRDL) | 4(MRDLG) | 0.8 | <0.05-2.1 | No | Water additive |

Lead and copper 90th percentile value of samples collected from the most recent round of sampling

***Organic Contaminants***

| Parameter/unit | | MCL | MCLG | Avg.Detected Level | Range of Detections | Violation No/Yes | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Trihalomethanes/ppb | | 80 | NA | 42 | 17-64 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorinationt |
| Haloacetic acids/ppb | | 60 | NA | 47 | 18-57 | No | |
| Total Organic Carbon/ppm Hemphill and Chattahoochee | | TT | NA | 1.2 | 0.9-1.6 | No | Naturally present |
| Total Organic Carbon/ppm Atlanta-Fulton County | | TT | NA | 1.0 | 0.9-1.1 | No | |

Note: TOCs= Monthly Average; TTHMs and HAA5 = Running annual averages for 2003



# 2003 City of Atlanta Water Quality Report

WSID # 1210001

## Continuing Our Commitment

The City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management is committed to providing safe, dependable drinking water to our customers in their homes and businesses. The 2003 Water Quality Table shows that our drinking water continues to meet or exceed the drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The table lists only regulated substances that were detected, even if the detected amount was below the highest level allowed by regulation. The water also was tested for hundreds of undetected compounds. Annually, we conduct over 50,000 tests, screening for more than 150 potential contaminants.

As more is learned about the environment and its effects on health issues, drinking water standards will continue to evolve. The City of Atlanta is currently renovating its water treatment facilities to meet future standards and regulations. To improve filter performance, both the Hemphill and Chattahoochee Water Treatment Plants began replacing existing filter valves and actuators in 2003 with completion expected this year. In 2003, the Chattahoochee Water Treatment Plant completed the Chattahoochee Wash Water Holding Tank Project, which increases the ability of the Chattahoochee Water Treatment Plant to process water taken from the Chattahoochee River during the early stages of treatment. Recently, this project was presented with the Design-Build Excellence Award from the Design-Build Institute of America. The City will continue to improve the facilities in the future as we endeavor to meet and exceed future water quality regulations.

The Bureau of Drinking Water's mission is to provide high quality, dependable drinking water at the lowest possible cost. We are committed to providing our customers with the excellent level of water service they expect and deserve, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

## Our Monitoring Program

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires water systems to monitor for unregulated parameters in order to assist the EPA in determining where certain contaminants occur and whether additional regulations may be necessary.

During 2003, the first round of monitoring was concluded for additional "unregulated parameters" in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule program. None of the "unregulated contaminants" from List One for which the Federal or State rules require monitoring were detected in our water system.

The City of Atlanta Water System and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) have completed a source water assessment listing potential sources of surface water pollution to your drinking water supply. The results of this assessment can be found at http://www.atlantaregional.com/swap/ or you can request information by mail from the ARC.

Attn: Matthew Harper
Environmental Planning Division
Atlanta Regional Commission
40 Courtland Street, NE Atlanta GA 30303

## Sources of Your Water

Each day, the Atlanta water system provides approximately 120 million gallons of treated drinking water to nearly 1 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta area. All the water processed is surface water that is pumped from the Chattahoochee River. The raw water intake for the Chattahoochee and Hemphill Water Treatment Plants is located on the Chattahoochee River, north of Peachtree Creek. The Chattahoochee Plant receives water directly from the river.

The Hemphill Plant processes raw water that has been pumped from the river to a reservoir. These two plants supply about 75% of Atlanta's drinking water. The remaining water is supplied by the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant, which also processes water from the Chattahoochee River. This plant supplies drinking water to the northeast area of our distribution system.

## Facts on Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

*Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;

*Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming;

*Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses;

*Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems; and

*Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons; such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, some elderly, and infants; can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

*Cryptosporidium* is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the United States. When ingested, it can cause nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, however, it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome its effects within a few weeks. Immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses and are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to prevent infection.

Important Information

This Report contains very important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene information muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

## Citizen Participation Program

The City of Atlanta has an ongoing Citizen Participation Program to educate and inform citizens about water quality issues and infrastructure projects designed to improve water treatment and delivery systems. The program also includes a public education initiative to encourage water conservation and source water protection.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Johnson at 404-330-6980

**Contact Information:**
**City of Atlanta**
**Bureau of Drinking Water**
**Water Quality Division**
**650 Bishop St. NW**
**Atlanta GA 30318**
**404-982-1458**

City of Atlanta
Department of Watershed Management
Protecting Our Future